

UNCLASSIFIED

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cc: USFP

TEXT OF NON-PAPER DELIVERED TO RWANDAN AMBASSADOR
May 27, 1994

RELEASED IN FULL

- On May 13, Deputy Assistant Secretary Prudence Bushnell raised with you your letter inviting contributions to an Embassy bank account for the Armed Forces of Rwanda. We remain seriously concerned about this activity and insist that it cease.
- Diplomatic missions and their bank accounts enjoy a special status under international law, including the Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations. These protections facilitate the conduct of bilateral diplomatic relations. International law does not, however, give embassies a license to conduct any activity that they choose in the territory of a foreign state.
- Taking into account the present circumstances, including the UN arms embargo on Rwanda and the serious allegations that some of the gross violations of international humanitarian law in Rwanda are attributable to the Armed Forces of Rwanda, the United States considers that the Embassy's acceptance of funds for the Armed Forces and deposit of those funds into the embassy account constitute an activity that is inconsistent with the Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations. Accordingly, the Embassy must cease this activity immediately.
- In the past, the State Department has warned all embassies in Washington that the use of embassy premises and bank accounts for purposes other than legitimate embassy functions may jeopardize the special status accorded to those accounts by international law. Continued use of an embassy account for an unacceptable purpose would call into question whether the account is entitled to this special status, for example, in the event that a lawsuit were filed in U.S. courts.